

STAND BEHIND THE BOYS.

How many doctors have applied this now very expressive phrase to themselves? There is nothing that puts more heart and gives so much confidence to a soldier in the thick of a fight, than the thought that if he does suffer a casualty he will receive proper medical care and attention. What are you doing in this respect?

There are many boys, sons of your patients or friends who have been or will be called into the service, and what a source of consolation it would be to the parents to know that possibly their own doctor might be the one to look after their boy, and they will welcome your acceptance of a commission in the Medical Reserve Corps and compliment you for so doing.

The opportunity for you to do the most good in a professional way to the greatest number of people, is to offer your service to your country through the Medical Reserve Corps. Do not think longer about it, but apply at once to your nearest Medical Examining Board, and if you are not informed of its locality, the editor of the Journal will supply the necessary information.

STAND BY OUR BOYS, YOUR BOYS, THEIR BOYS. Remember the gallant French in '76. *The British who stood by Dewey in 1898. The Garibaldis who were always for LIBERTY.*

The rapid expansion of the Army calls for a largely expanded Medical Reserve Corps. The Surgeon General has issued a most earnest appeal for doctors. The Department has reached the limit of medical officers available for assignment.

MEDICAL EDUCATION IN TIME OF WAR.

It is an axiom of intelligent social order that there should be certain safeguards for the public in the matter of incompetent ministrants to public and individual health. The sole standard which is practicable, fair and efficient in its results from the standpoint of the public, is a standard of preliminary and professional education. Provided the aspirant has thorough preparation for and training in his department of therapy, he has the right to prepare for any system he may prefer just as the individual sick has the right to select what therapeutic agency or person he will patronize. Under these conditions the efficient method will show itself certainly and will eventually be chosen by the thinking portion of the population. The essential point is that preliminary and professional education shall be thorough and comprehensive. The regulation of the practice of medicine thus becomes solely a matter of educational standards and thorough training.

Every physician should read attentively the paper

by Dr. H. E. Alderson of the State Board of Medical Examiners, on the Regulation of the Practice of Medicine in California, which was published last month. In connection with the argument of that paper, it is interesting to note the following quotation from a letter from the Surgeon-General of the Army to the deans of medical schools of acceptable grades: "It is the wish of the Surgeon-General that the same exacting standards be placed upon Medical Enlisted Reserve Corps men (i. e., medical students) that are placed on other men in time of peace, and that the professional training of Medical Enlisted Reserve Corps men should be decreased in no respect either in quality or quantity. The requirements for the satisfactory care of our soldiers are fully as high as for civil practice."

Dr. N. P. Caldwell, secretary of the Council on Education of the American Medical Association, said recently¹: "Even for Army purposes, the great demand is not so much for ordinary physicians as for those of highly technical and special training. Emphatically, therefore, the present demand does not call for a lowering of educational standards but for a continuation of the present entrance requirements of two years of college work, and for further improvements in laboratory and clinical equipment, and more particularly in the methods of teaching in all medical schools. That by such improvements the demand will soon be supplied is evidenced by the fact that, in the better medical schools, the number of graduates has steadily increased each year for the past five years, while the number graduating each year from the lower grade colleges has steadily decreased." Dr. Horace D. Arnold¹ says: "I wish to emphasize again one point briefly mentioned in my opening remarks, namely, the importance of not lowering the standards of medical education during this period of war. It means that the modern thorough training, with its broad scientific basis, must be fully maintained, if we are to make of our medical students officers who are competent to give proper care to our soldiers. We must not relax the thoroughness or the essential content of that training. The fact that the number of teachers is reduced is merely a reason for those who are left to work longer and harder. It is not a justification for weakening the instruction given."

These quotations from such authority speak in no uncertain tones and come with the force of war orders. As has been urged before in the JOURNAL, the standard of civil practice must be maintained and advanced, simply because we are at war. So, too, must public health programs of every sort be pushed as they were never pushed in time of peace. And again here, at the root of the whole matter, we must see to it that the supply of highly trained and properly trained doctors is not reduced at its source. In the face of these facts, any effort to lower the standards or status of medical education because of war times, savors unduly of that Prussian propaganda we abhor. All along the line, keep our work at highest pressure and efficiency, and so will we quickest defeat the Hun.

¹ A. M. A. Bulletin, 1917, xiii, 2.